

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0050] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

<sup>51</sup>  
[0050] While probably not necessary, once the percutaneous incisions 62a-f are formed, blunt finger AP 1/26/10  
dissection can optionally be used, as shown in FIG. 5A-5B, to separate the longissimus thoracis LT and  
multifidus muscles M, thereby exposing the facet and the junction of the transverse process and superior  
articular process.